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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5229
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RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 5753
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 8085
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 3205
RUEHKS0/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 6269
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 9563
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0325
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2974
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 6973
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 6615
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SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - RELATIONS BETWEEN RUSSIA AND FORMER
SOVIET REPUBLICS

11. LEAD STORIES: Most Friday morning papers gave top play to
yesterday's conclusion of the first trial involving lay judges.

12. "Former Soviet Republics Distance Themselves from Russia" The
business-oriented Nikkei wrote from Moscow (8/7): "Following the
Russian military's clash with Georgian troops [over the independence
of South Ossetia] a year ago, concern has been mounting among the
former republics of the defunct Soviet Union about Russia's
high-handed approach. Pro-Russian countries such as Belarus are
trying to overcome their own economic difficulties by approaching
the U.S. and Europe. Although Russia is keen to restore its grip on
the former republics through [providing] financial and military
assistance, the tug of war over the former Soviet republics is
intensifying between the U.S. and Europe, which are opposed to the
formation of a Russian 'sphere of influence' in the region, and
Russia."

ZUMWALT